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Please Co-Sponsor The Worker Safety and Energy Security Act (LRB 0759/LRB 3454)

TO: Wisconsin State Lawmakers

FROM: American Chemistry Council, American Petroleum Institute, Construction Business Group, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139, Mechanical Contractors Association of Wisconsin, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Midwest Food Products Association, Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association of Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' Association of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Building Trades Council, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Grocers Association, Wisconsin Independent Businesses, Wisconsin Independent Businesses Agri-Business Coalition, Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group, Wisconsin Laborers District Council, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, Wisconsin Paper Council, Wisconsin Pipe Trades, Wisconsin Propane Gas Association, Wisconsin Restaurant Association, Wisconsin Rural Water Association, Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association, Wisconsin Utilities Association

DATE: July 29, 2019

There is no doubt that our state's economy and families depend on an infrastructure network to move and supply energy and water for transportation, heating homes, powering

manufacturing, fueling agriculture and for providing the sustenance for survival. Unfortunately, we are seeing increased efforts by some to sabotage this critical infrastructure and harass the workers we depend on to keep it up and running.

In recent years, critical infrastructure worksites in the Midwest have seen millions of dollars of construction equipment set on fire¹, hydraulic fluid leaked onto the ground due to vandalism², intimidation of labor on worksites³, and individuals using force to break into facilities and unsafely turn off this critical infrastructure.⁴ Unfortunately, those causing this damage and disruption often either do not fully understand the harm they cause or simply don't care. Workers – usually skilled, union tradesmen and tradeswomen – are increasingly feeling unsafe and are seeing their equipment and even their own personal property being damaged. Attempts to improperly turn off or sabotage critical infrastructure is also putting our communities and environment at risk, and, in some cases, putting the lives of those doing the vandalism in jeopardy.

To address these serious and growing concerns, the Worker Safety and Energy Security Act adds petroleum, renewable fuel, chemical and water infrastructure to the existing criminal statute protecting our critical infrastructure from trespassing and damage, giving these types of critical infrastructure the same protections as electric and natural gas infrastructure. Nothing in this legislation impacts first amendment rights to organize, protest or picket, and to make that clear language has been included to ensure this legislation does not violate those rights.

We view this as a commonsense proposal that merely corrects an oversight from when the Legislature passed its bill protecting utility infrastructure from these same types of criminal actions. This bipartisan legislation has support from labor, agriculture and business and we respectfully ask that you add your name as a co-sponsor.

¹ <https://www.stormlakepilottribune.com/story/2360014.html>

² <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/business/energy-and-mining/4459466-equipment-vandalized-line-3-replacement-site>

³ <https://www.liuna.org/news/story/extremists-target-dakota-access-pipeline-construction>

⁴ <https://www.apnews.com/c816b1cf8e1047f688fe349e2712d0f4>